

Elements of a Good Story



A good story is **descriptive**



It conveys **vivid mental images** in readers' minds about the people, places and things involved. It provides detail, but only the right amount. Too much irrelevant detail detracts from the story and becomes a distraction—or worse, a bore.

Select detail that illuminates the point of the story for the reader. Your objective is to find a way to get readers to relate to the story, even though they never may have had a similar experience.

A good story is **interesting, captivating, engaging, entertaining, funny, realistic, romantic, something a reader can relate to.**

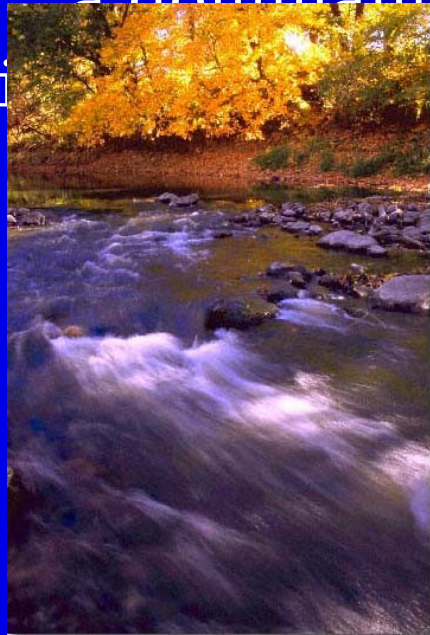


Although you're dealing with many different kinds of readers, with many different expectations, one thing is clear:
Readers enjoy going for the ride, regardless of how it turns out. Accordingly, you must pay attention to story qualities like action, pacing and suspense. A story that builds toward its ending usually is satisfying. Readers also like having some things left to their own imagination and interpretation, so don't try to explain everything.

A good story is **cohere**



It has an order, maybe a chronological one,
or maybe an
arrangement of materials that together create
a dominant



A good story should make sense,
have a flow, and be easy to

A good story makes a point



Readers want to be clear about the point of a story by the time they finish reading it. Even if you let the point of the story be implicit, rather than stating it directly, have a firm idea of the point you want to make by the time you're **polishing the final**

